

Message Text

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72

ACTION PER-03

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R 251548Z MAR 75
FM AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9711
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

UNCLAS FRANKFURT 2005

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: APER, CPAS, GW
SUBJECT: REPLACEMENT FOR CHIEF OF PASSPORT AND CITIZENSHIP
SECTION

FOR PER (BISHTON AND RICE) AND EUR/EX (CLARK)

REF: FRANKFURT'S 350, JANUARY 14; HARLAN-BISHTON LETTER
FEBRUARY 20; BISHTON-HARLAN LETTER MARCH 14;
MCKINLAY-BISHTON AND MCKINLAY-CLARK TELECONS MARCH 17.

1. EVEN BEFORE DEPT. APPROVED WARREN SWOPE'S
APPLICATION FOR RETIREMENT IN JANUARY BUT GRANTED HIM
ONLY THREE MONTHS INSTEAD OF REQUESTED FOUR MONTHS
RESERVE COMMISSION, WE HAVE SOUGHT VIA TELEGRAM,
OFFICIAL-INFORMAL LETTER AND TELEPHONE CALLS TO IMPRESS
ON DEPT. THAT REPLACEMENT NEEDED PROMPTLY FOR KEY
POSITION OF CHIEF OF PASSPORT AND CITIZENSHIP SECTION
(BUSIEST IN WORLD), WHICH WILL BECOME VACANT APRIL 30.
WE HAD FEARED THERE MIGHT BE DELAY IN FINDING REPLACEMENT
AND HAD OBTAINED SWOPE'S AGREEMENT TO REMAIN INTO
JUNE. SINCE DEPT. LIMITED FSR APPOINTMENT TO ONLY
THREE MONTHS, HOWEVER, HE HAS MADE VARIOUS COMMITMENTS
WHICH HE UNWILLING TO CHANGE AND WILL THUS DEFINITELY
LEAVE HERE IMMEDIATELY AFTER APRIL 30.

2. WHILE IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO TAKE A GAP OF FOUR
TO SIX MONTHS AT ANY TIME OF YEAR, THESE MAY-
SEPTEMBER MONTHS HAPPEN TO BE THE BUSIEST ON THE CONSULAR
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CALENDAR. PASSPORT ISSUANCE PEAKS IN MAY AND TAPERS

OFF SLOWLY UNTIL AUTUMN. FURTHERMORE. REMAINING PERSONNEL IN THE SECTION HAVE LEGITIMATE NEED FOR LEAVE DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAY PERIOD AS WELL. AUTHORIZATION FOR PIT EMPLOYEES PROVIDES WELCOME ASSISTANCE FOR PEAK WORKLOAD PERIOD AND PERMITS LOCAL EMPLOYEES TAKE NORMAL HOLIDAYS, BUT THEY ARE NOT SUBSTITUTE FOR COMMISSIONED OFFICERS. OUR URGENT NEED IS FOR QUALIFIED REPLACEMENT ARRIVING HERE IN MAY -- NOT IN AUGUST OR NOVEMBER.

3. INFORMAL MEMORANDUM OF INSPECTION CONCLUDED EARLIER THIS MONTH STATES: QUOTE THE PASSPORT AND CITIZENSHIP SECTION IS UNDOUBTEDLY THE MOST EFFICIENT, BEST MANAGED, HIGH VOLUME OPERATION IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE UNQUOTE. HOWEVER, WE CANNOT PROVIDE ADEQUATE SERVICE DURING PEAK SEASON WITHOUT THOROUGHLY QUALIFIED, ABLE BODIED SUPERVISOR. IF DEPT. CANNOT ASSIGN OFFICER WHO MEETS THESE REQUIREMENTS IN TIMELY FASHION, IT SHOULD CONSIDER DETAILING OFFICER TO FRANKFURT. WE HAVE QUARTERS AVAILABLE, SO PER DIEM COSTS WOULD BE CUT IN HALF. WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE CANVASS OTHER POSTS FOR VOLUNTEERS?.HARLAN

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